The Reserve Bank of India also announced other measures in its mid-term review of monetary and credit policy for 1999-2000 to boost credit growth in the economy. These include withdrawal of interest rate surcharge of 30 per cent on import finance in November, 1999 and arrangements for provision of credit to certain sectors like agriculture, exports, micro-credit institutions, small scale industries and housing on reasonable terms.

Phase II of Economic Reforms

716. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch phase II of the Economic Reforms;

(b) if so, what are the objectives and goals of this phase of the economic reforms; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The goal of economic reforms is "faster growth with employment and equity". To achieve this, repaid and broad-based growth of 7 to 8 per cent is required which will help eradicate poverty and unemployment. This is possible only by pursuing a bold strategy of economic reforms.

(c) The steps being taken include the setting up an Expenditure Commission, tax reforms, formulation of a fiscal responsibility Act, reforms of bank and financial institutions, a programme for rural connectivity, a National health policy, a water policy, renewed thrust on information technology and promoting efficiency of investments in the infrastructure sectors.

Illegal practices of foreign banks for collection of dues

717. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the modus operandi, adopted by agents of some foreign banks called the "customer-assistance specialists", as reported in the Indian Express of